



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ052-066-069

Sheboygan - Milwaukee - Rock

02 1200CST
04 0200CST

0 0

Record Heat

Persistent southwest winds pulled warm air into southeast Wisconsin over a 2 day period of time, which was enough to set some new temperature records. The city of Sheboygan (Sheboygan Co.) set a new daily record high of 47 on the 2nd, and another new daily record high of 54 on the 3rd. The old record for the 3rd was 46. Janesville's (Rock Co.) high temperature of 54 on the 3rd broke the old daily maximum of 48 set back in 1952. The city of Milwaukee registered 53 degrees at 0200 CST on the 4th, breaking the old daily record of 50 set back in 1950. Normal maximum temperatures in early January are 26. Other locations in southcentral and southeast Wisconsin shared the warmth. Noteworthy was the fact that Lake Mendota and Lake Monona in Madison (Dane Co.) were still unfrozen. The Merrimac Ferry (Sauk Co.) broke its record late winter closing date by continuing trips across the unfrozen Wisconsin River into the first few days of January. The previous late closing date was December 23, 1948. The ferry eventually ceased operations on January 13th, thanks to El Nino.

WIZ046>047-056

Marquette - Green Lake - Sauk

04 1500CST
05 0300CST

0 0

Ice Storm

An ice storm hit westcentral through northeast Wisconsin, just brushing three southcentral counties. The responsible low pressure tracked along a line from Dubuque, IA northeast through Fond du Lac county. Light to occasionally moderate rain combined with temperatures around 30 to produce ice accumulations of 1/4 to 1/2 inch. Icy road surfaces caused about 150 motor vehicle accidents, including several roll-overs. Only scattered power outages and downed tree limbs were noted thanks to light northeast winds of 5 to 10 mph. Consequently, there wasn't widespread wind stress on ice-covered power lines and tree limbs.

WIZ051>052-058>060-
064>066-069>072

Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth -
Racine - Kenosha

08 1330CST
09 1200CST

0 0

Winter Storm

A major winter storm brought heavy snow and gusty winds to 40 mph to the eastern 1/3 of Wisconsin. The responsible low pressure moved north along the east shore of Lake Michigan. Snow accumulations of 8 to almost 14 inches were the greatest amounts to date for any single storm during the 1997-98 winter season. In spite of the high moisture content of the snow, gusty northeast winds caused considerable blowing and drifting snow which hampered plowing activities. The snowfall was occasionally moderate to heavy with accumulations of 1 to 2 inches per hour while visibilities were occasionally below 1/4 mile. Predictably, hundreds of motor vehicle accidents were reported due to icy or snow covered roads. A major multi-vehicle accident on I-43 in Ozaukee County closed the Interstate for about 10 hours. Many airline flights were delayed at Milwaukee's Mitchell Field. Many trees were damaged by the heavy snow, and several power lines were downed. About 4000 customers were without electrical power in Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee counties. Meanwhile, many schools closed in the early afternoon hours, while several shopping malls shut their doors by mid-afternoon. The 24 hours snowfall total of 12.4 inches in Milwaukee was the greatest 24 hour accumulation in the past 10 years. It was also the 14th greatest 24-hour snowfall on record for Milwaukee.

Specific snow totals were: 13.7 inches in Cedarburg (Ozaukee Co.), 12.4 inches in Milwaukee (Milwaukee Co.), 11.5 inches at the NWS Forecast Office southeast of Sullivan (Jefferson Co.), 10.8 inches in West Bend (Washington Co.), 10.5 inches in Sheboygan (Sheboygan Co.), 10.0 inches in Waukesha (Waukesha Co.), 9.5 inches in Burlington (Racine Co.), 9.0 inches in Lake Geneva (Walworth Co.), 8.4 inches in Janesville (Rock Co.), 8.0 inches in the northwest corner of Kenosha County, and 8.0 inches in the southeast corner of Fond du Lac county.



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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ063

Dane

20 2200CST
21 1000CST

0 0

Heavy Snow

A minimal heavy snow event affected parts of southcentral Wisconsin as an inverted trough of low pressure tracked east across Wisconsin. Maximum accumulations of 6.7 inches were reported in Middleton (Dane Co.), 6.2 inches in Madison (Dane Co.), and 6.0 inches in Lake Mills (Jefferson Co.). Otherwise, snow accumulations were generally in the 3 to 5 inch range across the remainder of southcentral and southeast Wisconsin. The snow was somewhat fluffy, but reduced visibilities to 1/4 to 1/2 mile at times. This led to about 100 motor vehicle accidents, including a few roll-overs